

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 6699

January Session, 2013

LCO No. 5542



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by: (JUD)

AN ACT CONCERNING PRETRIAL DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS AND SOLICITATION OF CLIENTS IN CRIMINAL MATTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. Section 54-56i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
- 3 (a) There is established a pretrial drug education and community
- 4 <u>service</u> program for persons charged with a violation of section
- 5 21a-267, [or] 21a-279 or 21a-279a. The drug education and community
- 6 <u>service</u> program shall include a [ten-session drug intervention] <u>fifteen-</u>
- 7 <u>week drug education</u> program, a fifteen-session drug intervention
- 8 program and a substance abuse treatment program of not less than
- 9 fifteen sessions, and the performance of community service.
- 10 (b) Upon application by any such person for participation in such
- 11 program and payment to the court of an application fee of one
- 12 hundred dollars and a nonrefundable evaluation fee of one hundred
- 13 <u>fifty</u> dollars, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court
- 14 file sealed. [provided such person states under oath, in open court or

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before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under penalties of perjury, that such person has never had such program invoked in such person's behalf.] A person shall be ineligible for participation in such pretrial drug education and community service program if such person has twice previously participated in (1) the [eight-session, ten-session or fifteen-session] pretrial drug education program [, or substance abuse treatment program] established under the provisions of this section [or] in effect prior to October 1, 2013, (2) the [pretrial] community service labor program established under section 53a-39c, as amended by this act, (3) the drug education and community service program established under this section, or (4) any of such programs, except that the court may allow a person who has twice previously participated in such programs to participate in the pretrial drug education and community service program one additional time, for good cause shown. The evaluation and application fee imposed [by] under this subsection shall be credited to the pretrial account established under section 54-56k.

(c) The court, after consideration of the recommendation of the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case, may, in its discretion, grant such application. If the court grants such application, the court shall refer such person (1) to the Court Support Services Division for confirmation of the eligibility of the applicant, [and] (2) to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for evaluation and determination of an appropriate drug education or substance abuse treatment program for the first or second time such application is granted, and (3) to a state licensed substance abuse treatment program for evaluation and determination of an appropriate substance abuse treatment program for the third time such application is granted, except that, if such person is a veteran, the court may refer such person to the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, for any such evaluation.

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For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (d) of this section,
"veteran" means a person who is (A) a veteran, as defined in
subsection (a) of section 27-103, or (B) eligible to receive services from
the United States Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to Title 38

of the United States Code.

(d) (1) (A) Upon confirmation of eligibility and receipt of the evaluation and determination required [pursuant to] under subsection (c) of this section, such person shall be placed in the drug education program and referred by the Court Support Services Division for the purpose of receiving appropriate drug intervention services or substance abuse treatment program services, as recommended by the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section and ordered by the court, to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or to a state licensed substance abuse treatment program for placement in the appropriate drug education or substance abuse treatment program, except that, if such person is a veteran, the division may refer such person to the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(B) Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for the first time shall participate in a fifteen-week drug education program. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for the second time shall participate in either a fifteen-week drug education program or a substance abuse treatment program of not less than fifteen sessions, as ordered by the court based on the evaluation and determination required under subsection (c) of this section. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for a third time shall be referred to a state licensed substance abuse program for evaluation and participation in a course of treatment as ordered by the court based on the evaluation and determination required under subsection (c) of this section.

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(C) Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program shall also participate in a community service program administered by the Court Support Services Division pursuant to section 53a-39c, as amended by this act. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for the first time shall participate in the community service program for a period of five days. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for the second time shall participate in the community service program for a period of fifteen days. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education and community service program for a diditional time shall participate in the community service program for a diditional time shall participate in the community service program for a period of thirty days.

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(D) Placement in the drug education program pursuant to this section shall not exceed one year. Persons receiving substance abuse treatment program services in accordance with the provisions of this section shall only receive such services at state licensed substance abuse treatment program facilities that are in compliance with all state standards governing the operation of such facilities, except that, if such person is a veteran, such person may receive services from facilities under the supervision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection. Any person who enters the program shall agree: [(A)] (i) To the tolling of the statute of limitations with respect to such crime; [(B)] (ii) to a waiver of such person's right to a speedy trial; [(C)] (iii) to complete participation in the ten-session drug intervention program, fifteen-session drug intervention program or substance abuse treatment program, as recommended by the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, and ordered by the court; [(D)] (iv) to commence participation in the drug education program not later than ninety days after the date of entry of the court order unless granted a delayed entry into the program by the court; and [(E)] (v) upon completion of participation in the [pretrial]

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drug education and community service program, to accept [(i)] (I) placement in a treatment program upon the recommendation of a provider under contract with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or a provider under the supervision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or [(ii)] (II) placement in a treatment program that has standards substantially similar to, or higher than, a program of a provider under contract with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, if the Court Support Services Division deems it appropriate. [The Court Support Services Division shall require as a condition of participation in the drug education program that any person participating in the ten-session drug intervention program or the substance abuse treatment program also participate in the community service labor program, established pursuant to section 53a-39c, for not less than five days; and that any person participating in the fifteen-session drug intervention program also participate in said community service labor program, for not less than ten days.]

(2) The Court Support Services Division may only refer a veteran to the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for the receipt of services under the program if (A) the division determines that such services will be provided in a timely manner under standards substantially similar to, or higher than, standards for services provided by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services under the program, and (B) the applicable department agrees to submit timely program participation and completion reports to the division in the manner required by the division.

(e) If the Court Support Services Division informs the court that such person is ineligible for the program and the court makes a determination of ineligibility or if the program provider certifies to the court that such person did not successfully complete the assigned program and such person did not request, or the court denied, reinstatement in the program under subsection (i) of this section, the

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court shall order the court file to be unsealed, enter a plea of not guilty for such person and immediately place the case on the trial list.

- (f) If such person satisfactorily completes the assigned program, such person may apply for dismissal of the charges against such person and the court, on reviewing the record of such person's participation in such program submitted by the Court Support Services Division and on finding such satisfactory completion, shall dismiss the charges. If such person does not apply for dismissal of the charges against such person after satisfactorily completing the assigned program, the court, upon receipt of the record of such person's participation in such program submitted by the Court Support Services Division, may on its own motion make a finding of such satisfactory completion and dismiss the charges. Upon motion of such person and a showing of good cause, the court may extend the placement period for a reasonable period [for] of time to allow such person to complete the assigned program. A record of participation in such program shall be retained by the Court Support Services Division for a period of ten years from the date the court grants the application for participation in the program.
- (g) At the time the court grants the application for participation in the pretrial drug education and community service program, [such] any person ordered to participate in the drug education program shall pay to the court a nonrefundable program fee of [three hundred fifty dollars if such person is ordered to participate in the ten-session drug intervention program or five hundred dollars if such person is ordered to participate in the fifteen-session drug intervention program] six hundred dollars. If the court orders participation in a substance abuse treatment program, such person shall pay to the court a nonrefundable program fee of one hundred dollars and shall be responsible for the costs associated with such program. No person may be excluded from any such program for inability to pay such fee or cost, provided (1) such person files with the court an affidavit of indigency or inability to pay, (2) such indigency or inability to pay is confirmed by the Court

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Support Services Division, and (3) the court enters a finding thereof. The court may waive all or any portion of such fee depending on such person's ability to pay. If the court finds that a person is indigent or unable to pay for a <u>substance abuse</u> treatment program, the costs of such program shall be paid from the pretrial account established under section 54-56k. If the court denies the application, such person shall not be required to pay the program fee. If the court grants the application, and such person is later determined to be ineligible for participation in such pretrial drug education <u>and community service</u> program or fails to complete the assigned program, the program fee shall not be refunded. [All program fees] <u>Eighty-five per cent of each program fee paid</u> shall be credited to the pretrial account established under section 54-56k <u>and fifteen per cent of each program fee paid shall be credited to the alternative incarceration program account</u>.

(h) If a person returns to court with certification from a program provider that such person did not successfully complete the assigned program or is no longer amenable to treatment, the provider, to the extent practicable, shall include a recommendation to the court as to whether <u>placement in</u> a [ten-session drug intervention program, a fifteen-session drug intervention] <u>drug education</u> program or placement in a substance abuse treatment program would best serve such person's needs. The provider shall also indicate whether the current program referral was an initial referral or a reinstatement to the program.

(i) When a person subsequently requests reinstatement into a drug [intervention] <u>education</u> program or a substance abuse treatment program and the Court Support Services Division verifies that such person is eligible for reinstatement into such program and thereafter the court favorably acts on such request, [such] <u>any person reinstated into the drug education program</u> shall pay a nonrefundable program fee of [one hundred seventy-five dollars if ordered to complete a tensession drug intervention program or] two hundred fifty dollars, [if ordered to complete a fifteen-session drug intervention program, as

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212 the case may be] and any person reinstated into a substance abuse 213 treatment program shall be responsible for the costs, if any, associated 214 with being reinstated into the treatment program. Unless good cause is 215 shown, such [fees] <u>program fee</u> shall not be waived. [If the court grants 216 a person's request to be reinstated into a substance abuse treatment 217 program, such person shall be responsible for the costs, if any, 218 associated with being reinstated into the treatment program.] All 219 program fees collected in connection with a reinstatement to a drug 220 [intervention] education program shall be credited to the pretrial 221 account established under section 54-56k. No person shall be permitted 222 more than two program reinstatements pursuant to this subsection.

(j) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall develop standards and oversee appropriate drug education programs that it administers to meet the requirements of this section and may contract with service providers to provide such programs. The department shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to establish standards for such drug education programs.

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- (k) Any person whose employment or residence or schooling makes it unreasonable to attend a drug [intervention] <u>education</u> program or substance abuse treatment program in this state may attend a program in another state that has standards similar to, or higher than, those of this state, subject to the approval of the court and payment of the program fee or costs as provided in this section.
- Sec. 2. Section 53a-39c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
- 237 (a) There is established, within available appropriations, a
 238 community service labor program for persons [charged with a]
 239 convicted of a first violation of section 21a-267 or 21a-279 who have not
 240 previously been convicted of a violation of section [21a-267,] 21a-277 [,]
 241 or 21a-278. [or 21a-279.] Upon application by any such person for
 242 participation in such program the court may grant such application

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and, [(1) if such person has not previously been placed in the community service labor program, the court may either suspend prosecution and place such person in such program or, upon a plea of guilty without trial where a term of imprisonment is part of a stated plea agreement, suspend any sentence of imprisonment and make participation in such program a condition of probation or conditional discharge in accordance with section 53a-30; or (2) if such person has previously been placed in such program, the court may,] upon a plea of guilty without trial where a term of imprisonment is part of a stated plea agreement, suspend any sentence of imprisonment and make participation in such program a condition of probation or conditional discharge in accordance with [said] section 53a-30. No person may be placed in such program who has [twice] previously been placed in such program.

- (b) Any person who enters such program shall pay to the court a participation fee of two hundred five dollars, except that no person may be excluded from such program for inability to pay such fee, provided (1) such person files with the court an affidavit of indigency or inability to pay, (2) such indigency is confirmed by the Court Support Services Division, and (3) the court enters a finding thereof. All program fees collected <u>under this subsection</u> shall be deposited into the alternative incarceration program account. <u>The period of participation in the community service labor program shall be thirty days.</u>
- [(c) Any person for whom prosecution is suspended and who is placed in the community service labor program pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall agree to the tolling of the statute of limitations with respect to such crime and to a waiver of such person's right to a speedy trial. A pretrial community service labor program established under this section for persons for whom prosecution is suspended shall include a drug education component. If such person satisfactorily completes the program of community service labor to which such person was assigned, such person may apply for dismissal of the

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276 charges against such person and the court, on reviewing the record of 277 such person's participation in such program and on finding such 278 satisfactory completion, shall dismiss the charges. If the program 279 provider certifies to the court that such person did not successfully 280 complete the program of community service labor to which such 281 person was assigned or is no longer amenable to participation in such 282 program, the court shall enter a plea of not guilty for such person and 283 immediately place the case on the trial list.

- (d) The period of participation in a community service labor program shall be a minimum of fourteen days for a first violation and thirty days for a second violation involving a plea of guilty and conviction.]
- Sec. 3. Subsection (c) of section 54-56e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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(c) This section shall not be applicable: (1) To any person charged with a class A felony, a class B felony, except a violation of section 53a-122 that does not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, or a violation of section 14-227a, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21, section 53a-56b, 53a-60d, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-71, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, (2) to any person charged with a crime or motor vehicle violation who, as a result of the commission of such crime or motor vehicle violation, causes the death of another person, (3) to any person accused of a family violence crime as defined in section 46b-38a who (A) is eligible for the pretrial family violence education program established under section 46b-38c, or (B) has previously had the pretrial family violence education program invoked in such person's behalf, (4) to any person charged with a violation of section 21a-267 or 21a-279 who (A) is eligible for the pretrial drug education and community service program established under section 54-56i, as amended by this act, or

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- 308 (B) has previously had the pretrial drug education program or the
- 309 <u>pretrial drug education and community service program</u> invoked [in]
- 310 on such person's behalf, (5) unless good cause is shown, to (A) any
- 311 person charged with a class C felony, or (B) any person charged with
- 312 committing a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section
- 313 53a-71 while such person was less than four years older than the other
- 314 <u>person</u>, or (6) to any person charged with a violation of section 9-359 or
- 315 9-359a.
- Sec. 4. Section 54-56m of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 317 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
- 318 (a) There shall be established, in [the geographical area of the
- 319 Superior Court for the towns of Berlin, New Britain, Newington,
- 320 Rocky Hill and Wethersfield, the geographical area of the Superior
- 321 Court for the towns of Bethlehem, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect,
- 322 Southbury, Watertown, Wolcott, Woodbury and Waterbury, and such
- 323 other geographical areas of the Superior Court as the Chief Court
- 324 Administrator may designate] each geographical area of the Superior
- 325 <u>Court</u>, programs of mediation wherein the court may refer a criminal
- 326 prosecution to mediation for resolution. For the purposes of this
- 327 section, "mediation" means the process where two or more persons to a
- dispute agree to meet with an impartial third party to work toward a
- resolution of the dispute which is satisfactory to all parties in
- accordance with principles of mediation commonly used in labor
- 331 management disputes.
- 332 (b) If mediation is successful, the prosecuting authority, upon
- 333 recommendation of the family relations counselor or mediation officer,
- 334 shall enter a nolle prosequi and the prosecution shall be terminated
- and the defendant released from custody.
- 336 (c) If mediation is unsuccessful or the defendant fails to comply
- 337 with the terms of any mediation agreement, the family relations
- 338 counselor or mediation officer shall notify the prosecuting authority

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and prosecution of the defendant may be initiated.

- (d) There shall be established, in [the two geographical areas of the Superior Court enumerated in subsection (a) of this section and in such other geographical areas of the Superior Court as the Chief Court Administrator may designate] each geographical area of the Superior Court, units to provide mediation services in cases referred by the court to mediation. In addition, mediation services in cases referred by the court to mediation may also be provided by private agencies under contract with the Judicial Department.
- Sec. 5. Section 54-56h of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
 - (a) The court may, in the disposition of any criminal or motor vehicle case, including a dismissal or the imposition of a sentence, consider the fact that the defendant has made a monetary contribution to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund established under section 54-215 or a monetary contribution or contribution of community service work hours to a private nonprofit charity or other nonprofit organization.
 - (b) In entering a nolle prosequi, the state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's attorney in charge of the case may consider the fact that the defendant has made a monetary contribution to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund or a monetary contribution or contribution of community service work hours to a private nonprofit charity or other nonprofit organization.
 - (c) A monetary contribution made by a defendant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund as provided in this section may be paid to either the clerk of the court or the Office of Victim Services.
- Sec. 6. Section 54-66a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

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368 Any bail bond posted in any criminal proceeding in this state shall 369 be automatically terminated and released whenever the defendant: (1) 370 Is granted accelerated rehabilitation pursuant to section 54-56e, as 371 amended by this act; (2) is granted admission to the pretrial alcohol 372 education program pursuant to section 54-56g; (3) is granted 373 admission to the pretrial family violence education program pursuant 374 to section 46b-38c; (4) is granted admission to the community service 375 labor program pursuant to section 53a-39c, as amended by this act; (5) 376 is granted admission to the pretrial drug education and community 377 service program pursuant to section 54-56i, as amended by this act; (6) 378 has the complaint or information filed against such defendant 379 dismissed; (7) is acquitted; (8) is sentenced by the court; (9) is granted 380 admission to the pretrial school violence prevention program pursuant 381 to section 54-56j; (10) is charged with a violation of section 29-33 and 382 prosecution has been suspended pursuant to subsection (h) of section 383 29-33; or (11) is granted admission to the supervised diversionary 384 program for persons with psychiatric disabilities pursuant to section 385 54-56l.

- Sec. 7. Section 51-87a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):
- (a) A lawyer shall not send, or knowingly permit to be sent, on behalf of himself, his firm, his partner, an associate or any other lawyer affiliated with him or his firm, a written communication to a prospective client for the purpose of obtaining professional employment if:

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- (1) The written communication concerns an action for personal injury or wrongful death or otherwise relates to an accident or disaster involving the person to whom the communication is addressed or a relative of that person, unless the accident or disaster occurred more than forty days prior to the mailing of the communication;
- 398 (2) The written communication concerns representation in a

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- 399 <u>criminal prosecution of the person to whom the communication is</u>
- 400 <u>addressed or a relative of that person, unless the arrest in such</u>
- 401 <u>criminal prosecution occurred more than thirty days prior to the</u>
- 402 mailing of the communication;

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- [(2)] (3) The written communication concerns a specific matter and the lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the person to whom the communication is directed is represented by a lawyer in the matter;
- [(3)] (4) It has been made known to the lawyer that the person does not want to receive such communications from the lawyer;
- 408 **[**(4)**]** (5) The communication involves coercion, duress, fraud, 409 overreaching, harassment, intimidation or undue influence;
- [(5)] (6) The communication contains a false, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, or unfair statement or claim; or
- [(6)] (7) The lawyer knows or reasonably should know that the physical, emotional or mental state of the person makes it unlikely that the person would exercise reasonable judgment in employing a lawyer.
- (b) Written communications to prospective clients known to be in need of legal services in a particular matter for the purpose of obtaining professional employment are subject to the following requirements:
 - (1) Each page of such written communications shall be plainly marked "advertisement" in red ink, and the lower left corner of the face of the envelope containing a written communication likewise shall carry a prominent, red "advertisement" mark. If the written communication is in the form of a self-mailing brochure or pamphlet, the "advertisement" mark in red ink shall appear on the address panel of the brochure or pamphlet. Brochures solicited by clients or prospective clients need not contain the "advertisement" mark;

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- 428 (2) The lawyer shall retain a copy of each written communication for 429 three years;
- 430 (3) Written communications mailed to prospective clients shall be 431 sent only by regular United States mail, not by registered mail or other 432 forms of restricted delivery;
- (4) If a contract for representation is mailed with the written communication, the top of each page of the contract shall be marked "SAMPLE" in red ink in a type size one size larger than the largest type used in the contract and the words "DO NOT SIGN" shall appear on the client signature line;
- 438 (5) The first sentence of any written communication concerning a 439 specific matter shall be: "If you have already retained a lawyer for this 440 matter, please disregard this letter.";

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- (6) Written communications shall be on letter-sized paper rather than legal-sized paper and shall not be made to resemble legal pleadings or other legal documents. This provision does not preclude the mailing of brochures and pamphlets;
- (7) If a lawyer other than the lawyer whose name or signature appears on the communication will actually handle the case or matter, or if the case or matter will be referred to another lawyer or law firm, any written communication concerning a specific matter shall include a statement so advising the client;
- 450 (8) Any written communication prompted by a specific occurrence 451 involving or affecting the intended recipient of the communication or a 452 family member shall disclose how the lawyer obtained the information 453 prompting the communication; and
- 454 (9) A written communication seeking employment by a specific 455 prospective client in a specific matter shall not reveal on the envelope, 456 or on the outside of a self-mailing brochure or pamphlet, the nature of

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- 457 the client's legal problem.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, "prospective client" shall not include a commercial entity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2013	54-56i
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	53a-39c
Sec. 3	October 1, 2013	54-56e(c)
Sec. 4	October 1, 2013	54-56m
Sec. 5	October 1, 2013	54-56h
Sec. 6	October 1, 2013	54-66a
Sec. 7	October 1, 2013	51-87a

Statement of Purpose:

To: (1) Revise the pretrial drug education program by redesignating the program as a pretrial drug education and community service program and revising eligibility and participation requirements for the program, (2) limit eligibility for the community service labor program to enumerated offenses after conviction, (3) revise the eligibility criteria for accelerated rehabilitation, (4) expand mediation programs in criminal prosecutions to all geographical area court locations, (5) permit a court or prosecutor to consider the fact that a defendant has made a monetary contribution to a private nonprofit charity or other nonprofit organization, in a manner currently permitted for the consideration of community service work, and (6) require criminal defense attorneys to wait thirty days after an arrest of a defendant in a criminal matter before sending a written communication to solicit the defendant as a prospective client.

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